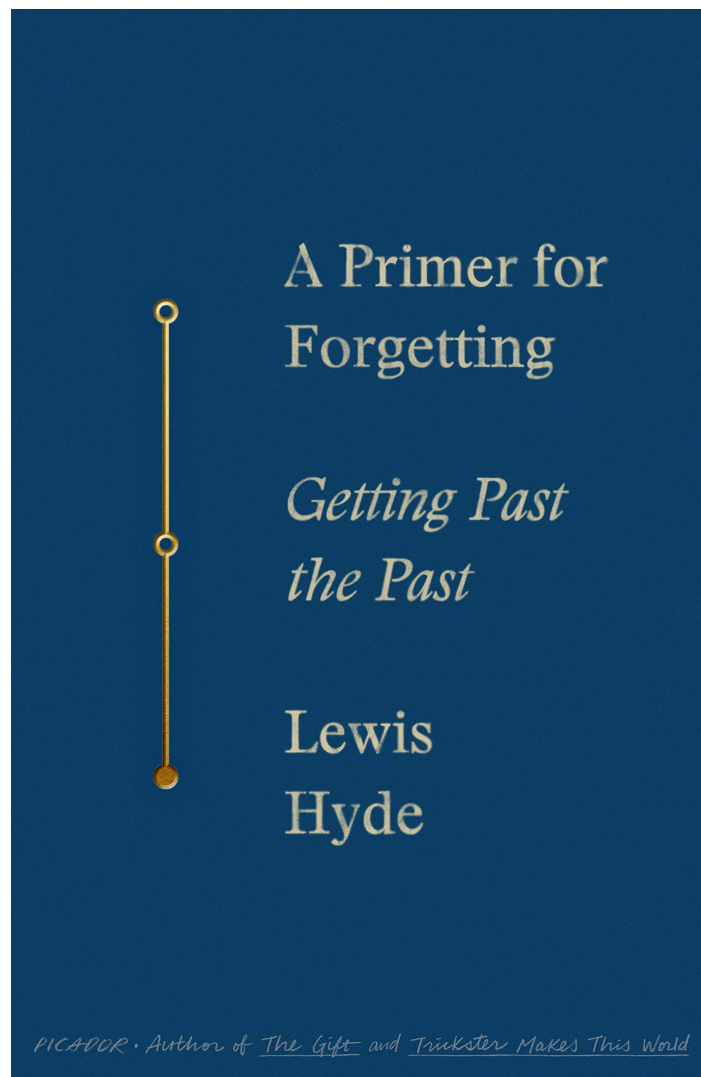


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A Primer for Forgetting: Getting Past the Past

Description :

Of our true superstars of nonfiction (David Foster Wallace), Lewis Hyde offers a playful and inspiring defense of forgetfulness by exploring the healing effect it can have on the human psyche. We live in a culture that prizes memory—how much we can store, the quality of what’s preserved, how we might better document and retain the moments of our life while fighting off the nightmare of losing all that we have experienced. But what if forgetfulness were seen not as something to fear—be it in the form of illness or simple absentmindedness—rather as a blessing, a balm, a path to peace and rebirth? *A Primer for Forgetting* is a remarkable experiment in scholarship, autobiography, and social criticism by the author of the classics *The Gift* and *Trickster Makes This World*. It forges a new vision of forgetfulness by assembling fragments of art and writing from the ancient world to the modern, weighing the potential boons forgetfulness might offer the present moment as a creative and political force. It also turns inward, using the author’s own life and memory as a canvas upon which to extol the virtues of a concept too long taken as an evil. Drawing material from Hesiod to Jorge Luis Borges to Elizabeth Bishop to Archbishop Desmond Tutu, from myths and legends to very real and recent traumas both personal and historical, *A Primer for Forgetting* is a unique and remarkable synthesis that only Lewis Hyde could have produced.